

STATE OF MARYLAND
ANNALS

Twenty-Second Annual Report

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD
OF
MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**



1937 - 1938

**OFFICES
211 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

Twenty-Second Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD

OF

MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

1937 - 1938

BEN PAUL SANDY, D. D. S.
Chairman

ELIZABETH J. RYON
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

MARIE WHITE PRESSTMAN
Secretary

HELEN L. ODOM
Chief Clerk

OFFICES
211 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

HON. HARRY W. NICE,
Governor of Maryland,
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND.

SIR:

I have the honor to present the report of the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1938, the resignation of the Chairman, Dr. Ben Paul Sandy, having taken effect prior to the issuing of this report.

The Board, realizing that its actions would inevitably be the object of criticisms, has welcomed suggestions from all organizations and groups of public-spirited citizens. By keeping in close touch with public opinion, the Board has endeavored to please the greatest possible number.

The Board has met daily at its offices at 211 North Calvert Street in Baltimore. Here the projection room is almost constantly in use. As a rule, each film is reviewed by two members of the Board who record their findings. In the case of a questionable film several screenings are generally necessary. All appeals from rulings of the Board have been reviewed by the entire Board in the presence of the applicant or his representative. Such appeals are filed on practically every deletion or rejection ordered by the Board.

The steadily decreasing number of eliminations noted in the report from year to year is the best evidence that the producing companies are conforming to standards established by law and the Production Code Administration adopted in 1930.

Comparisons of records show that many films are revised before being submitted to the Board and offensive scenes and dialogues removed. Therefore the number of deletions recorded are not a measure of the protection the public receives from the Board. This is especially true of that type of picture designated as "bootleg" film in the trade. Such films are, in large measure, kept outside the State and the few submitted for censorship are either cut in a drastic manner or are rejected *in toto* by the Board.

The Inspection Department has rendered excellent service in preventing and reporting violations of the law. Such irregularities as have been found were of a technical character and no report of any serious violation or intent to violate the law on the part of any exhibitor has reached our office during the past year.

The Board and the Film Exchanges have worked in harmony. The Industry, on the whole, has gone on record as desiring to cooperate with censorship regulations.

Appended is a detailed report of the results of all film examinations and a detailed statement of income and expenditures of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

MARIE W. PRESSTMAN,

Secretary.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED
OCTOBER 1, 1937—SEPTEMBER 30, 1938

Within the past year 6,243,398 feet of original film and 30,494,522 feet of duplicate film were submitted for censorship. Original film numbered 2,333 subjects and duplicate film 11,474 subjects.

The Board approved a total of 13,621 subjects, rejected 9, and ordered eliminations in 177 upon statutory grounds.

Of the rejected films, two were later passed in reconstructed form.

There were two appeals taken from the decision of the Board to the Baltimore City Court. In the first case the Court over-ruled the Board's rejection of the film entitled "Smashing the Vice Trust," a white slavery picture, and directed that the film be approved with eliminations. In the second case, the Court sustained the Board's rejection of a flagellation picture, entitled "Lash of The Penitentes."

The following schedule details the work of the year:

	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. Feet Original	No. Feet Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Eliminated
October.....	222	1,019	364	3,708	646,712	3,072,492	1,212	0	29
November	210	925	637	3,216	545,789	2,764,179	1,122	1	12
December..	207	989	695	2,975	593,163	2,540,049	1,185	2	9
January	192	944	604	3,034	508,667	2,580,394	1,126	0	10
February....	212	936	685	2,860	580,228	2,459,065	1,137	0	11
March.....	197	1,013	672	3,332	551,934	2,831,776	1,200	0	10
April.....	184	933	541	2,896	451,544	2,455,854	1,095	3	19
May	174	882	539	3,551	454,418	2,181,281	1,044	0	12
June	205	992	657	2,962	552,136	2,530,304	1,175	2	20
July.....	157	888	479	2,530	399,362	2,139,120	1,037	0	8
August	181	953	573	2,778	478,137	2,353,086	1,109	1	24
September	192	1,000	577	3,049	481,308	2,586,922	1,179	0	13
	2,333	11,474	6,923	36,891	6,243,398	30,494,522	13,621	*9	177

* Two later passed in reconstructed form.

CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS
OCTOBER 1, 1937—SEPTEMBER 30, 1938

	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
October	382	287	460	67	13	32
November	335	278	420	72	4	26
December	312	271	533	56	5	19
January	305	303	428	56	14	30
February	292	309	424	72	18	33
March	346	298	475	72	5	14
April	288	264	475	61	10	19
May	264	254	423	75	15	25
June	317	267	473	103	11	26
July	251	213	500	62	11	8
August	283	276	486	66	6	17
September	313	278	501	83	6	11
	3,638	3,298	5,598	845	118	260

ELIMINATIONS
OCTOBER 1, 1937—SEPTEMBER 30, 1938

	Dramas Eliminated	Comedies Eliminated	News Reels Eliminated	Miscellaneous Eliminated
October	27	0	2	0
November	12	0	0	0
December	9	0	0	0
January	10	0	0	0
February	11	0	0	0
March	10	0	0	0
April	19	0	0	0
May	12	0	0	0
June	20	0	0	0
July	6	2	0	0
August	15	8	0	1
September	13	0	0	0
	164	10	2	1

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1938

Receipts

FEES:

Original Reels (6,243,398 feet).....	\$14,034.00
Duplicate Reels (30,494,522 feet).....	33,644.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (981).....	981.00

\$48,659.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS:

Remitted to State Treasurer.....	\$48,659.00
----------------------------------	-------------

Expenses

Salaries and Wages.....	\$24,629.50
Office Supplies and Stationery.....	244.54
Printing.....	192.66
Film Approval Seals.....	971.38
Motion Picture Machine Supplies.....	82.48
Repairs and Replacements.....	20.00
Light, Heat, Power and Water.....	265.30
Traveling.....	409.25
Communication.....	378.48
Insurance.....	55.00
Office Equipment.....	86.15
Motion Picture Equipment.....	582.60
Rent.....	2,280.00

\$30,197.34

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1938

BUDGET ACCOUNT (PER COMPTROLLER)

Appropriation, 1938.....	\$31,012.00	
Less Disbursements by the State Treasurer for Expenses.....	30,197.34	
	<hr/>	
Unexpended Balance, September 30, 1938		\$814.66

WORKING FUND

Total Working Fund on Deposit, Union Trust Company, September 30, 1938.....		\$369.00
		<hr/>